AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 08 July 2004 (08.07.2004): original claims 38 and 40 amended; (2 pages)]

30. Use according any one of claims 17 to 23 wherein the disorder is a prion disorder.

31. Use according to claim 30 wherein the prion disorder is CJD.

32. A method of identifying an agent useful in the treatment of a protein conformational disorder comprising;

contacting a mammalian cell with a test compound; and,

determining the autophagy activity of said cell,

an increase in autophagy activity in the presence of said compound being indicative that the compound is a candidate agent for use in the treatment of a protein conformational disorder.

33. A method according to claim 32 wherein the cell comprises a heterologous nucleic acid encoding an aggregation-prone polypeptide.

34. A method according to claim 33 wherein said heterologous nucleic acid is operably linked to an inducible promoter.

35. A method according to claim 33 or claim 34 comprising expressing said nucleic acid and stopping said expression, prior to contacting the mammalian cell with the test compound.

36. A method according to any one of claims 32 to 35 comprising modifying the compound to optimise the pharmaceutical properties thereof

37. A method according to any one of claims 32 to 36 comprising formulating the test compound into a pharmaceutical composition.

38. A method of producing an agent for the treatment of a protein conformational disorder comprising;

modifying rapamycin to produce a rapamycin derivative; and; determining the autophagy inducing activity of said derivative.

39. A method according to claim 38 comprising determining the ability of said derivative to inhibit mTOR.

40. A method according to claim 38 or claim 39 comprising determining the ability of said derivative to enhance the clearance of cytoplasmic protein aggregates.